

SPECIAL AIR SERVICE REGIMENT — FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

**916. Mr F.A. ALBAN to the Premier:**

Yesterday the Premier attended a celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Special Air Service Regiment. Can the Premier please outline how the state government has recognised the significant milestone?

**Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:**

I thank the member for the question. The government and all members, I hope, were conscious that this year the Special Air Service Regiment based at Campbell Barracks, which happens to be in my electorate, is marking its fiftieth year. We all have the highest regard for the SAS and the work it does as an elite part of our defence forces. After discussions with the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, we decided as a government that it was appropriate to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the SAS. We further agreed that the most appropriate way of doing that would be to make a donation to the SAS Resources Trust.

Members will recall back in 1996 the Black Hawk helicopter tragedy in Queensland; 18 died, including 15 Special Air Service soldiers. Both the Minister for Veterans and I thought it most appropriate to give a donation of \$20 000 to the SAS Resources Trust to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Special Air Service Regiment. I thank the member for Willagee, having himself had a distinguished career in the SAS, for being there last night and for taking part in the handover of \$20 000 from the people of Western Australia in gratitude to the SAS Regiment, and in particular to support the widows and children of those soldiers who had lost their life.